



The Trussville Tribune

October 1 - 7, 2014

Your news source for Trussville, Clay and Pinson

50¢

Men killed in UPS shooting remembered as thoughtful, funny

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The memories became too hard to keep up with, after just a little while.

Memory after memory, picture after picture, prayer after prayer, each post to the "Brian Callans and Doug Hutcheson Memorial" Facebook group sent other posts down the page, one

on top of the other.

Few posts didn't get a lot of attention. Just about all did.

The memories and photos were of Brian Callans and Doug Hutcheson, the two men killed in a workplace shooting at the UPS Customer Center in Birmingham last Tuesday. The prayers were for them as well, and their families. Callans, 46, was

engaged. Hutcheson, 33, a 1999 Clay-Chalkville High School graduate, and a University of Phoenix graduate, was married to Tiffany Hutcheson with twin sons, Braddock and Sawyer.

Callans worked at UPS since 1988 and was a business manager. He attended UAB from 1987 to 1992, where he studied management information



photo courtesy of the Brian Callans and Doug Hutcheson Memorial Facebook page

Doug Hutcheson, left, and Brian Callans on Hutcheson's wedding day on June 21, 2003

systems. Michelle McDuffee Holmes said she graduated with Callans from Gardendale High School in 1986. She remembers Callans and another friend coming by her house three years after graduation to find out where she was registered for her wedding.

"Not only did they buy

see UPS page 3

Butterbean Festival set for Friday, Saturday in Pinson

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The ninth annual Alabama Butterbean Festival is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 3 and Saturday, Oct. 4 in downtown Pinson.

Festival hours are from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.



photo by Lee Weyhrich

Clay-Pinson Chamber of Commerce Director Ronnie Dixon, left, with Alabama Butterbean Festival mascot, Bucky the Butterbean

The two-day event debuted in 2006, and the 2010 festival was highlighted by Guinness World Records' official recognition of the world's largest pot of baked beans, which was 1,010.65 gallons. The Clay-Pinson Chamber of Commerce took over the festival's operation in 2011.

Clay-Pinson Chamber of Commerce Director Ronnie Dixon gave a preliminary report on

see BUTTERBEAN page 2

'I was surprised'

Trussville resident, hospital volunteer with Down syndrome gets birthday surprise



photo by Gary Lloyd

Aimee Lesley with her basket of birthday cards and a balloon

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Classrooms 1 and 2 on the second floor of St. Vincent's East are likely used most often for lectures and meetings, probably for serious discussions.

Last Monday, the two classrooms were turned into an indoor carnival.

Hospital auxiliaries were there for a regular meeting, but there was a little bit of fun involved. There was a red popcorn machine and other

refreshments along a back wall. There were small carnival games scattered across tables all around the two combined rooms. Some people were dressed up like they were in a carnival or circus.

There were also balloons, a basket of birthday cards and a cake. That was all for Aimee Lesley, a Trussville resident with Down syndrome who has volunteered at St. Vincent's East every Monday for the last 16 years, delivering mail, making packets, and handling other duties as she's assigned.

Lesley's birthday was actually last Thursday, Sept. 25, and she turned 40. She didn't realize a large portion of what was an auxiliaries' meeting was a surprise birthday celebration and birthday card shower for her.

"I was surprised," said Lesley, sitting next to a basket overflowing with cards.

St. Vincent's Health System Director of Volunteer Services Cathy Storch said a little cake was given to Lesley when she turned 30, but after

see SURPRISE page 5

Hewitt-Trussville Stadium will not open Friday

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The lights will be turned on at Jack Wood Stadium for at least one more varsity football game.

The new Hewitt-Trussville Stadium will not open Friday, Oct. 3 when Hewitt-Trussville hosts Oak Mountain, Trussville City Schools Superintendent Pattie Neill said last week.

The homecoming game, scheduled for 7 p.m., will be played at Jack Wood Stadium.

"Our homecoming theme is 'Light up the Night' and we encourage everyone to join us as we turn on the stadium lights for the last HTHS homecoming at Jack Wood Stadium," Neill said.

This Friday had been the target date to open the new stadium. Hewitt-Trussville will have remaining home games Oct. 24 against Hoover and Oct. 31 against Clay-Chalkville. The new stadium could open for one or both those games.

The new Hewitt-Trussville Stadium is being constructed by Trussville-based Blalock Building Company for \$14,626,550 and is located behind the Trussville Civic Center.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

Cahaba River Fry-Down rescheduled for Oct. 12

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The fifth annual Cahaba River Fry-Down has been rescheduled for Sunday, Oct. 12.

The event will be from noon to 4 p.m. at Trussville Springs. The Fry-Down was originally scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 28, but the threat of rain led to its postponement.

The best amateur catfish fryers in Alabama will square off at the Fry-Down, a competitive catfish cooking contest and riverfront festival to celebrate the Cahaba River.

The Fry-Down fundraiser is presented by Amerex to benefit the Cahaba River Society. There's a \$20 donation for adults, but children 12 and under get in free.

The Fry-Down is like a barbecue or chili cook-off, but with catfish and hushpuppies. Local teams of chefs will prepare catfish and fixin's for a panel of local personality judges, led by George Sarris of The Fish Market on Southside.

Guests will hear live music by The Cahaba River Rats and Festival Expressions, and activities for children of all ages. The Fry-Down Beer Garden presented by

the Cahaba River Society Tributary Board will feature local craft breweries. The Small Fry area will feature games and hands-on activities for children in and beside the river, led by environmental educators.

The Fry-Down combines several goals: to bring people closer to the river; build more support for Cahaba conservation; explore the relationship between water

quality, habitat, and drinking water; and build new partnerships to sustain work to ensure the Cahaba River's healthy future.

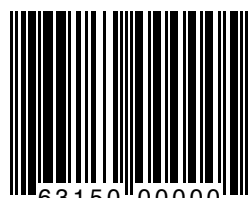
The Trussville Tribune is an event sponsor.

For more information, visit www.frydown.com.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

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NEWS

Volunteers needed for Type 2 diabetes study on combination therapy at UAB

From staff reports

Investigators at UAB are studying the long-term benefits and risks of four widely used diabetes drugs in combination with metformin, the most common first-line medication for treating Type 2 diabetes.

UAB is one of 50 institutions across the nation participating in the Glycemia Reduction Approaches in Diabetes: A Comparative Effectiveness Study, or GRADE study. GRADE is a large, multisite research effort sponsored by the National Institutes of Health with a goal of enrolling 5,000 patients nationwide.

"It is estimated that nearly one in three children, and one in two minority children, born after the year 2000 will develop Type 2 diabetes," said W. Timothy

Garvey, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Nutrition Sciences, director of the UAB Diabetes Research Center, and co-primary investigator at UAB. "Type 2 diabetes progresses gradually, and this study will help us understand how different combinations of medicines affect the disease and the people who are taking those medications over time."

Metformin is widely accepted as the first medication that should be used to treat Type 2 diabetes; however, most patients eventually require an additional medication to manage the disease. The results of GRADE will help doctors guide the management of individuals with Type 2 diabetes in the future.

"The GRADE study is the first comparative effectiveness study which will look directly

at the four major treatments for diabetes, compare them, and try to determine which one or ones are the best for treating Type 2 diabetes," said Andrea L. Cherrington, M.D., associate professor of preventive medicine and co-primary investigator at UAB. "At present, there is little consensus on which combinations of the current diabetes drugs in conjunction with metformin will best serve different patient populations."

People with Type 2 diabetes may be eligible to join the GRADE study if they:

- Have had Type 2 diabetes for less than 10 years
- Are over 30 years old
- Are American Indian and over 20 years old
- Take only metformin (Glucophage®) for their diabetes



photo courtesy of UAB News

UAB is looking for volunteers for a Type 2 diabetes study.

- Are willing to take a second diabetes medication
 - Are willing to make four office visits per year for the next four to six years
 - Close follow-up from an expert diabetes care team at no cost
 - Diabetes medications and supplies at no cost
 - Diabetes care visits and lab tests at no cost
 - Diabetes education at no cost
- The GRADE study is looking to enroll a cross section of patients with Type 2 diabetes of any age, gender and ethnicity. The study will follow its participants for seven years and will provide free medications and diabetes care. For more information, contact Dana Golson at 205-996-4015 or ccnrn@uab.edu.

Trussville approves balanced 2014-15 budget

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville City Council last Tuesday approved a balanced budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The total amount of money budgeted by the city is \$36.2 million for revenues and expenditures. "I think it's a good budget," Mayor Gene Melton said.

The budget projects \$24.08 million in local tax revenue for the next fiscal year. The biggest expenditure is for the Trussville Police Department, which totals \$6.03 million for 2014-2015.

Trussville City Council President Buddy Choat said the budget includes cost-of-living adjustments for city employees, a 1 percent pay increase across the board for city

employees and longevity pay. Choat thanked all city departments for the work they do.

"It takes a lot to run this city," he said.

The fiscal year begins Oct. 1 and runs through Sept. 30, 2015.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

Pinson Elementary gets picnic tables for outdoor classroom

From staff reports

The Pinson Elementary School Science Lab had to move to the opposite end of the school this year.

The science teacher, Missy Presley, needed an outdoor classroom and the city of Pinson bought and has delivered four picnic tables for the outdoor classroom.

All classes will have opportunities to use the picnic tables, not just science.

Presley thanked the city in the education of our children for "investing



submitted photo

Pinson Elementary School students using the picnic tables

BUTTERBEAN continued from page 1

the festival at the Sept. 18 Pinson City Council meeting. At the time of the meeting, 18 food vendors had signed up, six more than ever before.

"I've been real excited about the number of vendors that are coming back, from out of state especially," Dixon said at the Sept. 18 meeting. "We have just a little over 100 on other vendors. Officially the registra-

tion ended (Sept. 15) without a late fee, and we've had five sign on since (then), so we expect it to grow just a little bit more."

This year's event will feature a Friday night fireworks show, Saturday morning 5K race and one-mile fun run, a car show, carnival, arts and crafts vendors, food vendors, an entertainment stage, and a quilt raffle.

The Alabama Butterbean Festival was started by Palmerdale Homesteads Community Center as an effort to raise money for the renovation of the Palmerdale School that was built in 1937. The school is now the community center.

All the festival's proceeds go to local nonprofits -- the Pinson Education Foundation, Salvation Army Angel Tree and the Jimmie Hale

Mission.

For a schedule of performers on the entertainment stage or more information, visit www.albutterbeanfestival.org.

Lee Weyhrich contributed to this story.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

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2 convicted in 2006 church burnings remain jailed, despite release order

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Two men convicted of burning nine rural churches in February 2006 will not be released from state prison early, despite a Bibb County judge last week approving their release.

According to an order from Bibb County Circuit Judge Marvin Wiggins, Matthew Cloyd, 29, and Benjamin Moseley, 28, will serve probation after their state prison sentences for arson and burglary were reduced to time served.

Cloyd, Moseley and Russell Lee DeBusk Jr. were all sentenced to federal and state prisons for arson after a string of rural church burnings in February 2006. Five churches were burned on Feb. 3, 2006 in Bibb County. Four days later, four more churches were burned in Sumter, Greene and Pickens counties in an effort to mislead investigators.

Moseley, a Clay-Chalkville High School graduate, along with Birmingham-Southern College classmates DeBusk and Cloyd, were arrested in March 2006 for the string of church



photo courtesy of Alabama Department of Corrections

Benjamin Moseley

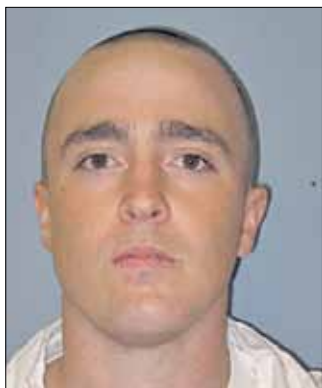


photo courtesy of Alabama Department of Corrections

Matthew Cloyd

burnings. No one was injured in the burnings.

DeBusk received a shorter federal prison sentence in the burnings, as he participated in five of them in Bibb County on Feb. 3, 2006. Moseley and Cloyd burned four more churches in Sumter, Greene and Pickens counties on Feb. 7, 2006, in an attempt to throw off investigators. The case was solved by federal agents who traced the tire tracks left by an SUV driven by Cloyd, which led to their arrests in March 2006.

DeBusk was released from federal prison on April 12, 2012, and Cloyd was released from federal prison on March 22, 2013.

According to Wiggins' order, Moseley and Cloyd will serve probation for

the remainder of their two-year state sentences. Both will face five years of probation and 300 hours of community service, and will pay \$100 per month toward restitution.

According to Alabama Department of Corrections spokeswoman Kristi Gates, however, Cloyd and Moseley are still in custody and "will remain so until we get orders from the judges on their imposed sentences." Cloyd will finish his sentence March 20, 2015 at the Frank Lee Youth Center and Moseley will finish his May 20, 2015 at the Childersburg Community Work Center.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

Trussville Chamber announces fall carnival



photo by Diane Poole

The scene at a past fall carnival in Trussville

From staff reports

The Trussville Area Chamber of Commerce will present a fall carnival in late October, it announced last week. The carnival will be held at Magnolia Park in downtown Trussville. The carnival will feature rides and activities for all ages, as well as some favorite fun festival foods.

The carnival is scheduled for Oct. 22 through Oct. 26. On the first night, bringing a friend means buy one,

get one free. Attendees that night will also hear contemporary Christian music.

Tentative hours on Wednesday and Thursday are 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Dates and times are subject to change due to weather conditions.

A wristband may be purchased for \$14, which is good for unlimited rides. Individual tickets will also be available for

\$1 each (multiple tickets may be required for some rides) for those who only want to experience a few of the activities. Coupons are available for \$1 off the price of the wristband at the Trussville Area Chamber of Commerce, in Trussville City Schools' "In the Loop" e-newsletter and online at www.trussvillechamber.com.

For more information, visit www.trussvillechamber.com or call 205-655-7535.

UPS continued from page 1

us a gift but (it) was part of my fine china collection," Holmes said on Facebook. "Ok, I know that doesn't seem like a lot to many, but the fact these were GUYS (that I considered like brothers) that would do this, seemed pretty remarkable to me. He was always very thoughtful."

Hutcheson was an operations supervisor at UPS since July 2011. He was a UPS driver from June 2004 through July 2011 and worked as a pre-loader at UPS from August 1999 through June 2004.

Clay-Chalkville head football coach Jerry Hood was an assistant coach for the Cougars when Hutcheson played in the late 1990s.

"I do remember that he had just a super personality," Hood said. "He was a very funny young man."

Clay-Chalkville High School teacher Marsha Hancock taught Hutcheson in her health class. She said he was "well mannered and was liked by his peers." Clay-Chalkville High School English teacher Brandy Shotts graduated with Hutcheson in 1999.

"He was one of the funniest guys I've ever known," Shotts said. "He was always smiling, always laughing and always willing to cheer up his friends."

Amanda Harper remembered finding out she was having twins, and gaining advice from Tiffany and Doug about the process. She said neither Hutcheson nor Callans deserved this.

"These two men left a lasting impression

on everyone they met that will never be forgotten," Harper said. "I know God gained two amazing angels Tuesday."

Johnny Sanders said when Clay-Chalkville High School first opened in the 1990s, there was no weight room. He and Hutcheson were fellow linemen who were workout partners, so they did push-ups, sit-ups, and pull-ups together. They also did squats and calf raises with their partner on their back.

"Doug and I spent the entire summer on one another's back...literally," Sanders said on Facebook.

Tiffany's cousin, Misty Hall Barmore, said Hutcheson made a lasting impression on people who attended her parents' 50th wedding anniversary.

"He would have given his shirt off his back to anyone," she said.

Shotts said she knows that Hutcheson would want to be remembered as a great father and husband.

"He would want that to be his legacy," she said.

For more on Callans and Hutcheson, find "Brian Callans and Doug Hutcheson Memorial" on Facebook. To help the families, there are fundraising pages for Callans and Hutcheson set up at www.gofundme.com/f1f9nk and www.gofundme.com/DougHutcheson.

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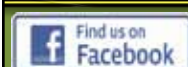


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Trussville man pleads to council again about sewer plant noise, odor

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

A Trussville man last week again implored the Trussville City Council to provide an explanation as to why the city allowed a private sewer system to be installed to service the Cahaba Manor subdivision.

Terry Ellard, who lives on Weatherford Drive in Trussville, said at an August city council meeting that he was concerned about noise and odor coming from a nearby sewage treatment plant. He told the council that the plant is directly behind his house, and that he's been noticing the odor over the last three months.

Ellard was at a 2013 city council meeting to let the city know about

the noise that came from the plant. At the Dec. 19, 2013 city council meeting, Councilman Perry Cook reported that he met with the former head of the Trussville Inspections Department, Dan Sargent, at Cahaba Manor. Cook said at that meeting he heard only "a low hum" while he was there. The building has since been insulated with double duct board.

Ellard said the newest problem is the odor, which he said has caused a neighboring home on the real estate market not to sell. The city likely can't control the odor, so it was recommended that residents call the Jefferson County Health Department.

Ellard said a procedure to protect the citizens

of Trussville hasn't been taken. Councilman Brian Plant said the council meeting wasn't the right forum for this, recommending Ellard meet with Mayor Gene Melton about the issue.

Building out the subdivisions in the area and having more people move in could be causing the plant, which one resident said was built in 2006, to be over its capacity, city officials said.

At last week's meeting, Ellard said it needs to be determined "what responsibility the city of Trussville has in correcting a clear violation of laws set forth to protect the citizens of Trussville," Ellard said. He said the first page of Trussville's zoning ordinances states "the public welfare requiring

it." Ellard said the Planning and Zoning Board violated the zoning ordinances by allowing and approving the construction of a private sewer facility to service Cahaba Manor at the request of the developer. He said the zoning ordinances don't allow a private sewer system in a single family residential district.

"I am very concerned that this council and the mayor have refused to take action or responsibility for this violation," Ellard said.

Ellard said he met with Trussville Mayor Gene Melton on Sept. 10 with two other concerned residents.

"We voiced our concerns and the mayor assured as that no later than the following Wednesday, Sept. 17, he would provide

the city's response related to our request," Ellard said. "I have not received that response as of today, Sept. 23. Also, I was informed by the council that they would also look further into this matter about the odor concerns."

Melton said at last week's meeting that he still had meetings scheduled with developers, the property owner and the treatment plant owner, so he didn't want to comment in a "piecemeal" manner. He did say he was getting "fairly close" to having all the information he needed. Councilman Alan Taylor said he wouldn't want to speak to the issue until Melton does his "due diligence."

"We're taking that seriously," said Trussville City Council President

Buddy Choat. Ellard said he doesn't want to file a lawsuit. He just wants the backing of the city over the noise and odor coming from the plant.

"Without the city, I have nothing," he said.

Ellard ended his plea to the council by asking for an "agreed upon solution to permanently alleviate the noise, odor, the eyesore that was allowed to be brought into this community."

"I also encourage the city to reach out to the developer and the servicer of this private sewer facility so that all parties participate in a viable solution," he said.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

JefCoEd buys land for Chalkville Elementary cafeteria

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Jefferson County Board of Education last week voted to purchase 3.2 acres of land for the needed space to construct a new cafeteria at Chalkville Elementary School.

The cost of the land is \$124,800.

The board in August appointed TurnerBatson Architects to provide

design services for the construction of the cafeteria.

Principal Rod Johnson has said the current cafeteria was designed to feed about 600 students. Chalkville Elementary School, however, is the third-largest school in the Jefferson County Schools system, behind Shades Valley and Clay-Chalkville high schools. As of Aug. 18, enrollment was at 1,206 students, up

from 1,126 last year.

Because of the high number of students, lunchtime begins at 10 a.m. and ends around 1 p.m. each day.

Johnson has said that he expects a new cafeteria won't be complete until at least next fall. He said he hopes the current cafeteria will eventually be used for office space, storage space and more classrooms.

Trussville establishes Husky Parkway speed limit

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville City Council last Tuesday approved an ordinance changing the speed limit on Husky Parkway and establishing a designated school zone in the area.

The council established the speed limit on Husky Parkway as 30 mph, extending from the road's intersection with Trussville-Clay Road through to its intersection

with Deerfoot Parkway.

The ordinance does provide an exception: "Upon that portion of Husky Parkway beginning 500 feet east of the intersection of Husky Parkway and Trussville-Clay Road moving in an easterly direction for 2,700 feet, which is hereby designated as a school zone, it shall be unlawful for any person to drive any vehicle at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour from 7:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m."

The ordinance states that it will become effective the date Husky Parkway is completed and opened to through traffic. It was originally expected to open Sept. 15 but didn't due to weather and construction delays. Trussville City Schools has been working on a safety and traffic plan for when the extension opens.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

Argo officially opens \$50,000 playground

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The city of Argo last week officially opened its new playground for city residents.

A ribbon cutting was held last Thursday morning at 100 Blackjack Road, near Argo City Hall.

The total cost of the new playground was \$50,540, including shipping, installation and rubber mulch.

"For playground equipment of this size and quality, that is a great deal," said Argo City Councilwoman Ann Brown.

The Argo City Council and Mayor Paul Jennings voted to allocate \$25,540 for the project. The St. Clair County Commission contributed \$15,000 toward the purchase and also loaned the city of Argo the remaining \$10,000. The equipment was purchased from Concord-based Hammill Recreation, LLC.

Argo also purchased 12 pallets of sod to finish the area surrounding the playground. Brown thanked the St. Clair County Commission, Bubba Bradley of Bradley Masonry, Corky Massey of Massey Asphalt and Tommy Williams of Williams Orchard for their

work in completing the playground. Brown also thanked the 20-plus people that came out to lay the sod and finish the final details.

"Policemen, firemen, moms, dads, children and citizens who don't even have children came out to lend a helping hand," Brown said. "This project is complete and ready for Argo's children to have many hours of fun playing for years to come on the new playground equipment."

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

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SURPRISE continued from page 1

“unmercifully teasing” her about turning 40, Storch wanted last Monday to be a special day.

“She loves everybody and she smiles and she talks to everybody and knows everybody,” Storch said. “She is just a joy to us to have here. We appreciate all the stuff she does for us, too.”

Lesley’s mother, Kay Lesley, was also on hand for last week’s surprise celebration. She said her daughter is outgoing and is a people person. She said Aimee has been a part-time hostess at Applebee’s in Trussville for

the past 10 years, helping seat people during the lunch shift on Thursdays and Fridays. About three months ago, Lesley was awarded a 10-year pin for her service at the restaurant.

“The fact that Aimee has been accepted in her role here at the hospital is very pleasing to me,” Kay Lesley said.

When Kay Lesley has to come to the hospital, she brings Aimee along because she knows where to take her, since she delivers mail and packets all over the building.

“She knows the hospital



photo courtesy of St. Vincent’s Health System

From left are auxilian secretary Jeams Cowser, suxilian Aimee Lesley and auxilian president Randall Cowser.

like the back of her hand,” Kay Lesley said.

When Lesley first began volunteering at St. Vincent’s East, one of the experienced volunteers already there took her under her wing, became her team-mate.

“Everybody loves her and I think that’s what I get out of it, seeing everybody loving her just as much as I do, too,” Storch said. “St. Vincent’s is proud to be able to have Aimee as a volunteer, and she really lives our mission of serving others and making people feel good just by saying ‘Hello.’”

Kay Lesley said her daughter “loves this work” at the hospital.

“She would not miss this for anything in the world,” she said.

Kay Lesley said Aimee would open every birthday card she received, from people around the St. Vincent’s Health System, from friends of Storch from Maine to California.

“I enjoy being here,” Aimee Lesley said.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

Pinson sets work session for bicentennial celebration

by Lee Weyhrich

Staff Writer

Pinson is coming up on its 200th birthday, but there’s some confusion over who will throw the party.

Mayor Hoyt Sanders suggested combining the bicentennial celebration, Pinson City Fest and the grand opening of the new

city park into one huge event in mid-May 2015 rather than doing a string of individual events in a short period. Unbeknownst to most Pinson City Council members, the Pinson Historical Society had already begun planning the bicentennial event for April 11.

The Pinson community is among the oldest in

Alabama, actually predating the founding of the state by four years. According to Pinson Historical Society’s Steven Baird, Pinson will be the first community in the state to ever celebrate 200 years, and other communities as well as the Alabama Bicentennial Commission are looking to Pinson to set the example.

The time frame

confusion seems to have come from a meeting between the Enhancement Committee and the Pinson Historical Society on Sept. 15. According to Pinson City Councilman John Churchwell, the Enhancement Committee said there were no plans for City Fest nor a bicentennial celebration, and any planning of such an event

would need to be handled by the Pinson Historical Society.

Pinson Historical Society members began planning for April 11 after the meeting. By Sept. 18 they had already booked musicians, organized reenactments, scheduled crafters and vendors, looked into carnival rides, and found people to give

presentations.

The society was planning to hold the event at the Old Rock School, Triangle Park and the Mission Possible parking lot.

The Pinson City Council and the Pinson Historical Society have scheduled a work session for Thursday, Oct. 30 to discuss plans and alternatives.

JefCoEd honors board member’s support of arts

From staff reports

At the Sept. 25 Jefferson County Board of Education meeting, during the conclusion of a fine arts department video, board member Tommy Little started hearing praise from all over the county from teachers, parents and students.

It was a surprise appreciation video to honor him for his 12 years on the board and especially as a champion and sentinel of the fine arts department for the county’s 56 schools. As a high school band member and lover of music, he’d always believed that music gave him a place, a recognition to develop his abilities and Little knew the value of the arts in giving special consideration for students who didn’t fit in the usual



photo courtesy of Jefferson County Schools

Director of fine arts Dianne Johnson presents Tommy Little with a plaque and a public appreciation of his championing of the fine arts for 12 years. He leaves the Jefferson County Board of Education after the October meeting.

high school places. Dianne Johnson, director of the fine arts program, presented him with a plaque and an 11-minute video that highlighted JefCoEd’s band, choir, theatre and

arts comprehensive program. Also, she provided a video for each of the other four board members who discussed Little’s championing of the fine arts.

Hewitt-Trussville homecoming parade Thursday

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Hewitt-Trussville High School homecoming parade is scheduled for

Thursday, Oct. 2 at 4 p.m.

The parade route will begin in front of the historic school building on Parkway Drive, proceed down Parkway Drive to U.S. Highway 11 and turn right.

The parade will travel down U.S. Highway 11 and turn right on North Chalkville Road, ending at the North Mall.

CCHS wants to send rice to Africa to help battle Ebola

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Clay-Chalkville High School National Honor Society is trying to help in the fight against the Ebola virus outbreak.

The society has a goal of getting 1,000 10-pound bags of rice to send to West Africa, said Clay-Chalkville High School Principal Michael Lee.

Lee said anyone wishing to donate a 10-pound bag of rice can drop it off at the high school.

On Tuesday night, anyone who donated a 10-pound bag of rice before the Hewitt-



photo courtesy of Jefferson County Schools

Clay-Chalkville High School

Trussville vs. Clay-Chalkville varsity volleyball match got in free.



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Civitan Park first phase going 'outstanding'

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

There haven't been the most positive things to say about the ongoing Civitan Park project in Trussville over the past year, but they're coming now.

Trussville Mayor Gene Melton last Tuesday said the contractor performing the work on the first phase of the project has been "outstanding to this point."

The contractor is Walker Patton Contracting.

With accommodating weather, the first phase of the project could be done by the end of October, Melton said.

The project includes finishing the parking lot and landscaping around the Veterans Memorial Monument on the Civitan Park side of the Cahaba River. This work was let for bid May 30, and Walker Patton Contracting was the



file photo by Ron Burkett

The gazebo at Civitan Park

low bidder, coming in with a bid of \$388,248.22.

Walker Patton Contracting began work in late August, and officials said they would "do our best" to complete the first phase by Veteran's Day. One official from KBR said the goal of the first phase is to get the monument side of the park open because Trussville residents have been "upset" at how long it's remained closed.

The Civitan Park

greenway project was divided into two jobs in November 2013. The second aspect involves the rest of the site, including linking the greenway from Civitan Park to the Trussville Sports Complex along the Cahaba River. The second phase is expected to be let for bid in December.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

Clay city manager 'appalled' by commission's discretionary fund

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Clay City Manager Ronnie Dixon said he's "appalled" that the Jefferson County Commission considered and approved reinstating a discretionary fund for commissioners.

The commission voted 3-2 last week in favor of the 2015 fiscal year budget, which included a \$250,000 discretionary fund. Each commissioner will get to spend \$50,000

in his or her district.

"If they have \$250,000 extra lying around, we want our money back for the paving of a county road, Old Springville," Dixon said in an email.

Dixon applauded Commissioner Joe Knight "for taking a stand against this slush fund." Knight voted against the budget because of the discretionary fund. Commissioner George Bowman also voted against the budget.

"I guess the western side of the county must

be better of than we in the northeastern sections, since Clay and Trussville have to maintain county roads," Dixon said. "A much better use of \$250,000 would be to put some Roads and Transportation employees back to work. Tracy Pate and the administrators of Roads and Transportation are doing what they can with what they're given but they need at least 50 more employees county wide."

Knight called the fund

"regressive," referring to past commissions that had much trouble with the concept, ending up with some commissioners, like Larry Langford, in jail. Knight said the money is in a capital fund called "Community Development."

"What I told (the commissioners) is it's going back to the old ways," Knight said. "I just think it sends the wrong message."

Knight said his potential plans for the \$50,000 for District 4 -- which

includes Clay, Pinson, Trussville, Grayson Valley, Palmyerdale, Gardendale, Morris, Kimberly, Warrior, County Line, Trafford, and parts of Center Point, Irondale, Tarrant, and Birmingham -- would be to put the money back in the general fund or look into the possibility of investing toward a tornado shelter for a community. Knight didn't name a specific community, but did say several cities need them and some have expressed interest.

"That's the only thing

I would consider at this point," Knight said.

Knight said he thinks the county should address its infrastructure first, like taking care of roads that need improvement. He said then, when everything that needs fixing is fixed, should the commission look at the possibility of discretionary money.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

Trussville accepting applications for school board seat

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Trussville Mayor Gene Melton is accepting letters of interest for a Trussville City Board of Education seat that will soon come open.

Danny Garrett, the vice president of the school board, will be leaving his position after the Oct. 20 board meeting. Garrett is the newly elected representative for State House District 44, which covers Clay, Pinson, and Trussville, and he takes office in November.

Melton said those interested in the open seat should email him a letter of interest -- with contact information -- by

Friday, Oct. 10. Melton's email address is Mayor@trussville.org.

Those interested can also mail a letter to Melton at P.O. Box 159, Trussville, AL 35173, or bring it by Trussville City Hall.

Once the submissions are in, Melton and the Trussville City Council will interview final candidates. The next board of education member will likely be appointed by the city council in late October.

Trussville City Council President Buddy Choat said he's sure a lot of good people will want to serve Trussville City Schools.

"It's usually a hard decision," Choat said of appointing someone to the school board.



photo courtesy of Principle Portrait Group

Danny Garrett

Garrett has served on the school board since July 1, 2010, when he was appointed to fill the remaining year of John Floyd's term. He was then reappointed in 2011 for a five-year term.

Garrett won the June Republican primary

race for the State House District 44 seat over fellow Trussville candidates John Amari and Joe Freeman. Garrett earned 3,502 votes, Amari garnered 2,447 votes and Freeman received 725 votes.

Garrett said in June that

he hopes to help bring jobs and industry to Alabama, improve the education and general funds, meet with and help the municipalities in District 44 and get people to work together.

"I'm just very happy with the results and I'm

looking forward to serving the district," Garrett said in June.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

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Oktoberfest in Trussville set for Oct. 11

From staff reports

The fourth annual Oktoberfest is set for Saturday, Oct. 11 at Holy Infant of Prague on U.S. Highway 11 in Trussville.

The free event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is no charge for parking.

The event features authentic German food and live music, along with other treats such as German cakes, strudels, funnel cakes, candies, cookies, snow cones, cotton candy, peanuts, pizza and nachos.

There are activities planned for the entire family from tots to seniors and everyone in between.

Some of the offerings include hayrides to the pumpkin patch, a rock wall, bungee jump, paintball, obstacle course, pedestal joust, pumpkin painting, children's games with prizes, football and ring toss, hole-in-one, cake wheel, miniature golf, and face-painting.

There are opportunities to win prizes, cakes and cash with games, the grab bag wheel, bingo, and a raffle that includes prizes of \$1,500 cash, \$750 cash, large screen TV and a Kindle.

Grandma's back porch will be open with homemade jellies and jams, pickled vegetables and hand-

made candies, cookies and other delicacies, including gluten-free and sugar-free selections.

The event is hosted by volunteers from Holy Infant of Prague, which is involved with contributing to the community with the Trussville Ecumenical Assistive Ministry, feeding the homeless, prison ministry, hosting Al-Anon, mission work, knitting prayer shawls for the sick, St. Vincent de Paul and other causes.

Holy Infant of Prague is located at 8090 Gadsden Highway in Trussville.

For more information, visit www.OktoberfestTrussville.com.

Governor announces training for mandated reporters of child abuse, neglect

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Gov. Robert Bentley recently announced a statewide effort to ensure all mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect receive the necessary training to better protect Alabama's children.

The Alabama Department of Human Resources now has an online training course for persons mandated to report child abuse or neglect on its website. The online training is designed to instruct mandated reporters on important elements of the reporting process.

Persons who are considered mandated reporters include: public and private K-12 employees, teachers and officials, employees of public and private institutions of post-secondary and higher education, medical employees, child care workers, law enforcement

officials, members of the clergy, mental health professionals and others.

This year, the DHR is working more than 29,000 cases of child abuse or neglect involving more than 45,000 children in Alabama.

"There is nothing more important than the safety of the children of Alabama," Bentley said. "This online training created by Department of Human Resource is essential for all persons to take, not just mandatory reporters. We all play a key role in ensuring that, if a child appears to be in danger, swift action is taken to protect the child and hopefully mitigate any long term effects."

The training, which takes less than an hour to complete, covers why it's important to report child abuse or neglect, who is required to report it, how to recognize it, how to report it and what happens after a report is made.

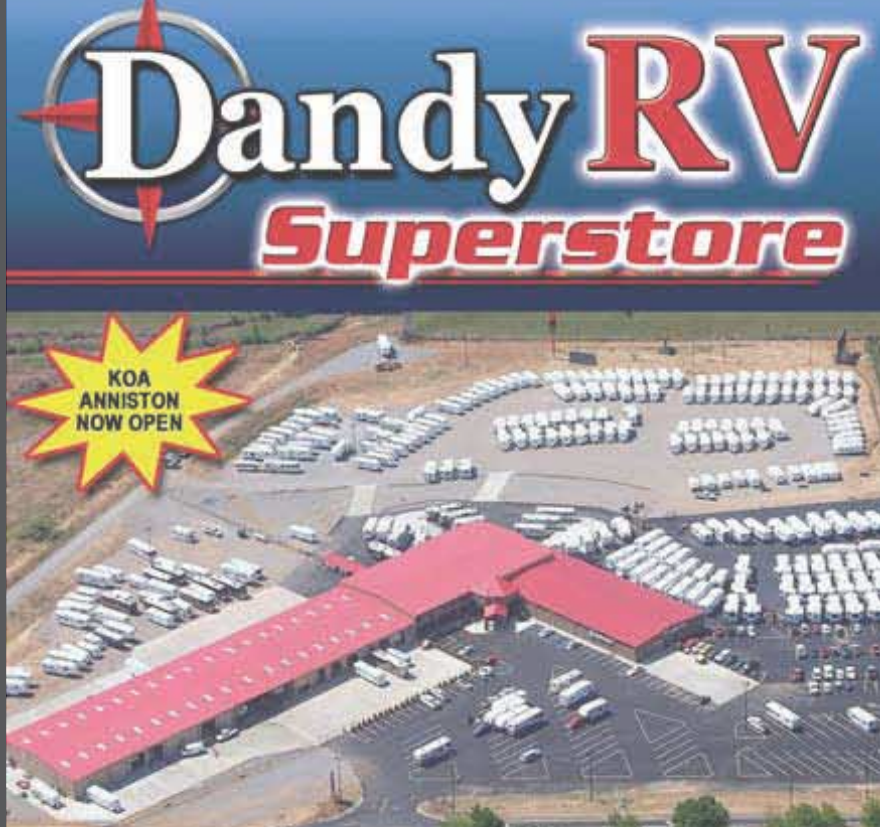
The Code of Alabama

provides that certain persons must, by law, report suspected abuse or neglect. Any mandated reporter who chooses not to report suspected abuse or neglect may be charged with a Class B misdemeanor for failing to comply with the law.

"Educators across the state take our responsibility as mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect seriously," State Superintendent of Education Tommy Bice said. "This new online training opportunity provided by DHR, for our teachers and staff, will lead to even greater understanding of the signs of abuse and appropriate reporting procedures."

For more information, visit <http://training.dhr.alabama.gov>.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.




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